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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/880,608	06/13/2001	Osamu Takagi	380-313	5979

7590 01/29/2002

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EXAMINER

DUVERNE, JEAN F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/880,608

Applicant(s)

Takagi et al

Examiner

Jean Duverne

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jun 13, 2001
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 2 20) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-2 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bruno (US patent 2,265,998).

For claim 1, Bruno's device discloses a conductive contacting portion having contact point at one end (C) to be brought into contact with a mating object at 13 in a first direction (D1) at a predetermined position (connection in fig. 1); a spring portion (2) supporting the contacting point so that the contact portion is elastically movable in the first direction (D1: see attachment) and a second direction (D2: see attachment) perpendicular to the first direction; displacement maintaining means at 1 for maintaining the contact point in a specific condition such that the contact is offset from the predetermined position in the second direction (see figs. 2 and 3), the displacement maintaining means releasing the specific condition when contacting portion is moved in a direction opposite to the first direction (see figs. 2 and 3).

For claim 2, Bruno's device discloses the aforementioned limitations including an intermediate portion (3") which can be used as an arm connected to between the contact portion and the spring portion, the displacement means having end hooks that can be used as locking

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portion for retaining the arm the arm in first direction, the displacement maintaining member having a locking portion at the end for locking the retaining arm in the direction.

For claim 5, Bruno's device discloses the aforementioned limitations including the spring portion (2) meanders in a plane extending in the first and second directions and extends in the first direction (see figs 2 and 3).

For claim 7, Bruno's device discloses the aforementioned limitations including the insulator defining a receiving portion accommodating the spring portion, a slit (S2: see attachment) formed at one end of the first direction to extend in the second direction and the contacting portion having a part inserted into the slit.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruno (US patent 2,265,998).

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Bruno's device discloses the aforementioned limitations including a locking member (1) to hold the assembly in a locking place but fails to show the locking portion as being an insulator (made with isolating material). However the retaining arm is an insulator retained by the locking member. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary in the art at the time the invention was made to make the locking portion with isolating material instead of metal, since it has been held to within the general skill of a worker in the art to select material on the basis of meeting design requirement. In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruno (US patent 2,265,998) in view of Murayama (JP patent 3035776).

Bruno's device discloses the aforementioned limitations, however, fails to explicitly disclose the spring as being electroductive and electrically connected the contact portion. Murayama's device discloses the spring as being electroductive and electrically connected the contact portion. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to use the spring as being electroductive and electrically connected the contact portion structure for improving the interconnection in Bruno's device by making reliable connection with the mating object.

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Conclusion

3. Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

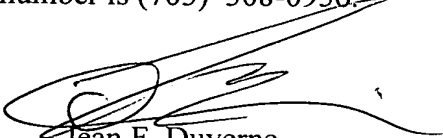
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean Duverne whose telephone number is (703) 305 - 0297 . The examiner can normally be reached from 8:30 to 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (703) 308 - 3119. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308 - 7722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

JFD

January 28, 2002



Jean F. Duverne

Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2839

Dec. 16, 1941.

W. A. BRUNO

2,265,998

ELECTRIC CONNECTOR

Filed June 28, 1940

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

